and 70 per cent college students in Metros chew gutkha and pan masala;

(e) whether Government have conducted an all-India survey in this regard to know the status of use of gutkha and pan masala;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (g) Under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, both Central and State Governments are independently empowered to ban any edible product which is found dangerous to the health of the public. Using this power, the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Maharashtra have banned the sale and manufacture for sale of gutkha.

According to the National Family Health Survey conducted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 1998-99, the percentage of usual household members of age 15 and above who chew pan masala or tobacco is 28.3 per cent (male) and 12.4 per cent (female).

Cholera cases in Delhi

2706. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a spurt in cholera cases in parts of outer Delhi and unauthorized colonies recently;

(b) if so, the number of such cases detected during the current year; and

(c) how these figures compare with the last year's position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Government of NCT of Delhi has reported that during this year, till 19.07.2002,156 cholera cases have been detected against 217 cases detected last year during the same period.

Health services to combat infectious diseases in Delhi

†2707. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Health Services in †Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Delhi is not well equipped to combat the infectious diseases like cholera, diarrhoea, etc.; and

(b) the reasons for not increasing the number of Health Services in view of rapidly increasings population of the Capital?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In order to cope with the rapidly increasing population in capital city of Delhi, the Government of NCT of Delhi has reported that it formulates plans to increase the number of dispensaries, hospitals from time to time. During the last year 12 new allopathic dispensaries were set up. During the current year also, construction work of number of new hospitals are at various stages of implementation.

MBBS seats in various medical colleges

†2708. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of seats for MBBS course in various medical colleges in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of seats allocated for general entrance examination, All India Merit Quota and payment, separately;

(c) the number of applications received from various State Governments for increasing the number of MBBS seats alongwith the details of pending applications for approval; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken for according approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) At present there are 196 approved/ recognized medical colleges in the country with total annual intake of 21749 approximately. The State-wise number of MBBS seats are given in the Statement *(See* below).

(b) In all the Government Medical Colleges, except for medical colleges in Andhra Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir, who are not

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.